

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 972

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KENNEDY.

Read 1st time January 30, 2006, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4893S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 9, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the designation of hepatitis awareness day.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 9, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 9.158, to read as follows:

**9.158. 1. The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting
2 apart the tenth day of May as "Hepatitis C Awareness Day", and
3 recommending to the people of the state that the day be appropriately
4 observed through activities which will increase hepatitis C awareness,
5 education, tolerance, and understanding.**

6 **2. Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus
7 (HCV) and spread by contact with the blood of an infected person. As
8 the third highest reported virus in Missouri, hepatitis C acts as the
9 silent killer of many persons because they are unaware they are infected
10 with HCV, which is asymptomatic until advanced liver damage
11 develops. Since no vaccine for hepatitis C currently exists, the only way
12 to prevent the disease is to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus
13 through information and education.**

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